12. An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said first power source is electrically connected to said capillary so that said capillary operates as the powered electrode.

13. An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said first power source is electrically connected to said counter-electrode so that said counter-electrode operates as the powered electrode.

14. An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said first power source includes one of a direct current power source, a radio frequency power source and a microwave frequency power source.

15. An apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising:

an instrument configured for analyzing electromagnetic radiation emanating from the glow discharge; and

a light directing element disposed near said electrode gap and configured to direct electromagnetic radiation from the glow discharge to said analyzing instrument.

16. An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein said light directing element includes a fiber optic light guide.

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